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CPYRGHT

Programs White House took

ANY TALK IS DAMAGING

SID DAVIS: "None day, Wednesday, the President had an announcement to make. Allen Dulles, Chief of THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY was retiring, and former Atomic Energy Commission chairman, John McCone, a Republican, was taking over. Ever since the U-S affair, reports have been rampant that Dulles was on his way out. The unsuccessful Cuban invasion this year rekindled the story. CIA, our big espionage organization, super secret in character, had found itself on the front pages for months.

"The President, in announcing Dulles' retirement attempted to head off any connection between the change and those embarrassing incidents involving CIA. The President said Dulles had planned to retire in November. He praised Dulles for his work and devotion to duty. Dulles and McCone were in Newport for the announcement, and Dulles, an official frequently described as a mystery man, made one of his rare public statements, commenting that McCone's selection was an ideal choice.

"What Mr. Dulles did not say, and what John McCone realizes is that the CIA is a rare kind of animal in American government and politics. Unlike most agencies it cannot brag about its successes nor explain its failures. Because of the secrecy that shrouds its work, and the nature of its operations, any talk is damaging. This is Sid Davis, in Washington."